

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

SAJ-01 MBFR-03 NEA-10 ACDA-19 IO-13 OMB-01 AF-10

RSR-01 /148 W

----- 001637

R 051631 Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 164

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 7972

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, PFOR, MARR, FR, US, XF, UR

SUBJ: BREZHNEV VISIT TO FRANCE

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. FRENCH AMBASSADOR VIMONT INFORMS US THAT BREZHNEV SPENT A GOOD DEAL OF TIME BRIEFING POMPIDOU ON THE BREZHNEV- NIXON MEETINGS. BREZHNEV NOTED THAT ONE OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE AGREEMENT ON THE PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR WAS TO AVOID MISCALCULATION. IN HIS TALKS WITH JOBERT, GROMYKO EMPHASIZED THE DESIRABILITY OF COMPLETING THE SECOND PHASE OF CSCE BY THE END OF NOVEMBER THIS YEAR. GROMYKO ALLEGED THAT THE ABSENCE OF ANYTHING SUBSTANTIVE IN THE MIDDLE EAST SECTION OF THE US- SOVIET COMMUNIQUE WAS DUE TO US INTRANSIGENCE. END SUMMARY

2. BREZHNEV- POMPIDOU TALKS. AT WEEKLY QUADRIpartite MEETING, FRANCE AMBASSADOR VIMONT GAVE FOLLOWING RUNDOWN OF THE SOVIET-FRENCH DISCUSSIONS DURING BREZHNEV VISIT JUNE 25-27:

A. IN HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT POMPIDOU, BREZHNEV SPENT A GOOD DEAL OF TIME DISCUSSING HIS VISIT TO THE US. BREZHNEV
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EMPHASIZED THAT THE AGREEMENT ON THE PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR WAS WAS DESIGNED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, TO AVOID MISCALCULATION ON THE PART OF EITHER THE US OR USSR. THE TWO SIGNATORIES, BREZHNEV ADDED, HAD NO INTENTION OF INTERFERING IN THE AFFAIRS OF THIRD COUNTRIES. BREZHNEV UNDERLINED THAT ONE OF HIS MAIN PURPOSES IN STOPPING IN FRANCE WAS TO REASSURE FRANCE AND THROUGH IT OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES THAT NO AGREEMENTS WERE MADE BETWEEN THE US AND THE USSR WHICH WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT OTHER PARTIES. BREZHNEV'S PURPOSE FURTHER WAS TO BOLSTER COOPERATION AND CONFIDENCE BETWEEN PARIS AND MOSCOW.

B. IN REPLY, POMPIDOU NOTED THAT HE WAS PLEASED WITH PROGRESS REGISTERED IN NORMALIZING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND USSR. FRANCE, FOR ITS PART, CONSIDERED THE AGREEMENT ON PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR WAR STRICTLY A BILATERAL AGREEMENT. AS IN THE PAST FRANCE WOULD CONTINUE TO ADVOCATE CONTROLLED DISARMAMENT.

POMPIDOU REAFFIRMED THE FRENCH POSITION WITH RESPECT TO MBFR, NOTING THAT PARIS WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP INFORMED ON THE EVOLUTION OF NEGOTIATIONS IN VIENNA. FRANCE HAS NO INTENTION OF TAKING PART IN THOSE NEGOTIATIONS.

3. GROMYKO- JOBERT MEETINGS. VIMONT HAD THE FOLLOWING TO SAY ABOUT CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN GROMYKO AND FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER JOBERT. IN WHICH VIMONT PARTICIPATED:

A. SCSE: GROMYKO EXPRESSED SOVIET STAISFACTION WITH FRENCH-SOVIET CONSULTATIONS IN THE PRELIMINARY TALKS AT HELSINKI. ALTHOUGH GROMYKO DID NOT MENTION A DATE FOR THE THIRD PHASE, HE STRESSED SEVERAL TIMES DURING THE CONVERSATION THAT THE SOVIETS WANTED TO SEE THE SECOND PHASE COMPLETED BY THE END OF NOVEMBER. GROMYKO LEFT THE IMPLICATION THAT THE WEST HAD TO DECIDE HOW BEST TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL, THAT IS, BY WORKING THROUGH THE SUMMER MONTHS OR BY SHORTENING THE ACTUAL PERIOD OF CONSULTATIONS. GROMYKO TOOK EXCEPTION TO THE MANNER IN WHICH THE MALTESE HAD MANIPULATED THE PRINCIPLE OF CONSENSUS. JOBERT RETORTED THAT THIS WAS THE ONLY MANNER IN WHICH A MEETING OF THIS KIND COULD OPERATE, NOTING THAT THE EEC WORKED ON A SIMILAR BASIS. IN DISCUSSING THE FINAL DOCUMENTS WHICH MIGHT COME OUT OF CSCE, GROMYKO INSISTED ON GIVING THE STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES A BINDING POLITICAL AND JURIDICAL CHARACTER. AT THE SAME TIME, GROMYKO NOTED THAT THE AGREEMENTS CONFIDENTIAL

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REACHED WITH RESPECT TO BASKETS TWO AND THREE SHOULD ONLY GIVE " ORIENTATION" TO COOPERATION BETWEEN THE STATES INVOLVED. JOBERT REPLIED THAT THE CHANCES FOR LASTING SUCCESS WOULD BE MUCH BETTER

IF AN ATTEMPT WERE MADE TO AVOID GIVING THE AGREEMENTS A JURIDICAL CHARACTER, ADDING THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFFUCULT TO GET 35 STATES TO AGREE TO THE SOVIET VIEWPOINT WITH REGARD TO THE STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES. GORMYKO NOTED THAT HE WAS OPPOSED TO THE INTRODUCTION OF NORTH AFRICAN COUNTRIES INTO THE CONFERENCE. JOBERT SUGGESTED THAT ALTERIA AND TUNISIA SHOULD BE HEARD IF THEY HAVE ANY SPECIAL STATEMENTS TO MAKE.

B. MIDDLE EAST: IN INITIATING DISCUSSION ON THIS SUBJECT, JOBERT CALLED ATTENTION TO THE CURRENT FEELING OF DESPAIR AMONG THE ARAB COUNTIES, ESPECIALLY EGYPT, WITH RESPECT TO A SETTLEMENT OF THE ARAB- ISRAELI DISPUTE. GROMYKO SAID THE ABSENCE OF ANYTHING SUBSTANTIVE IN THE US- SOVIET COMMUNIQUE WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE US, WHICH RESISTED DRAFT LANGUAGE PROPOSED BY THE SOVIET SIDE. GROMYKO ADDED THAT THE US- SOVIET COMMUNIQUE HAD TWO POSITIVE POINTS: (1) THE US WAS READY TO MAKE EFFORTS TOWARD ACHIEVING A PEACE SETTLEMENT; AND (2) THE US SIDE WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE INTERESTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. GOOMYKO EMPHASIZED THAT THE SOVIET POSITION CONTINUED TO CALL FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAEL FROM ALL OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. MOREOVER, MOSCOW WAS OPPOSED TO AN INTERIM SOLUTION SINCE NO ONE COULD ACCEPT THIS ON THE ARAB SIDE, AND ADDED THAT THE SOVETS SUPPORTED RESOLUTION 242. GROMYKO SAID THE SOVIET UNION WAS READY FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH EVERYBODY, INCLUDING THE US, IN AN EFFORT TO PROMOTE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. DUBS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MOSCOW07972
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730765/aaaajyli.tel
Line Count: 148
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31-Jul-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <20-Sep-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 980311
Subject: BREZHNEV VISIT TO FRANCE
TAGS: MARR, PARM, PFOR, FR, UR, US, XF
To: STATE INFO HELSINKI
LONDON
PARIS
USNATO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005